

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 294631

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, NI

SUBJECT: POLITICAL/ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF NIGERIA

REF: STATE 271664

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT COUNTRY TEAM, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, AND BRANCH PAO'S WILL HOLD CONFERENCE IN LAGOS DECEMBER 6-7 TO ASSESS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN NIGERIA, TO REVIEW US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS, AND TO TAKE STOCK OF US PROGRAMS. DEPARTMENT HOPES EMBASSY WILL CABLE SUMMARY OF MAJOR CONCLUSIONS.

2. MOST TOPICS OF INTEREST TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE SELF-EVIDENT, BUT DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION BE PAID TO FOLLOWING:

A) UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL DYNAMICS WITHIN THE SMC
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AND OTHER NATIONAL-LEVEL DECISION-MAKING GROUPS.

B) CIVILIAN-MILITARY RELATIONS IN NIGERIA AS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARE BEGINNING TO EMERGE.

C) WHAT ARE FMG EXPECTATIONS OF USG POLICY IN '77 AND INITIATIVES FMG MAY TAKE WHICH WOULD AFFECT US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS.

D) PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF COUNTRY-FINANCED TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CONSEQUENCES FOR ORGANIZATION OF US RESOURCES.

3. AF UNDERSTANDS THAT EMBASSY DRAFT PARA HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT, IS BEING REPRODUCED, AND WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SUBSTANTIVE OFFICES IN NEXT FEW DAYS. ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE REPORTING WOULD SUPPLEMENT DRAFT PARA AND OF COURSE DOES NOT HAVE TO RESTATE CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT PARA.

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